



House Committee on Judiciary
House Bill 4088
February 2, 2026
Sister Veronica Schueler, FSE
Director, Oregon Catholic Conference

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee,

The Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon strives to transform Oregon into a sanctuary where every human being is deeply valued and protected. We believe in protecting the inherent dignity of every human person, born and unborn. We are opposed to healthcare initiatives that do not align with our moral vision of respecting the inherent dignity of every human person and the strengthening of the family.

The policy of protecting providers of abortion and gender-affirming care is abhorrent. House Bill 4088 (HB 4088) does not align with our moral vision. For the following reasons, we ask you to oppose HB 4088.

- HB 4088 provides greater protection than that afforded to almost any other medical service. We are deeply concerned about the bill's overreach. While privacy and confidentiality for all patients are bedrock principles within our healthcare systems, they should not come at the expense of protecting abuse, malpractice, or harm to individuals.
- HB 4088 restricts parents' ability to protect their children across state lines. We strongly believe in supporting families. Parents have been given unique authority and responsibility for their children and should be upheld in their safeguarding role. This legislation, coming as it does on the heels of laws granting access to reproductive and gender-affirming care to children under the age of 15 (children 15 and older already did not need parental consent), adds to the pressures preventing parents from protecting their children from harm caused by less than qualified or unscrupulous providers.
- HB 4088 limits access to medical records, cooperation with outside investigations, and blocks civil actions under other states' laws. We are concerned with the ability of a woman who receives an abortion, or a person receiving gender affirming care, to pursue or have an avenue for justice. This law would also make it more difficult to protect the victims of human trafficking and domestic violence who can be forced to have abortions.
- HB 4088 protects an agenda, not people. It violates our religious principles and threatens women, children, and families.

Vote NO on House Bill 4088.

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